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Contra Costa County

1979 Annual Report

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Contra Costa County
California

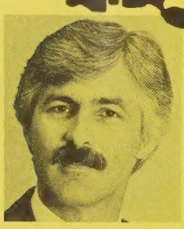
1979

An Annual Report from

M. G. Wingett
County Administrator

651 Pine Street
Martinez, California 94553
(415) 372-4080

Supervisorial Districts



County Board of Supervisors

District 1

Tom Powers 231-3231
100 - 37th Street
Richmond, CA 94805

District 2

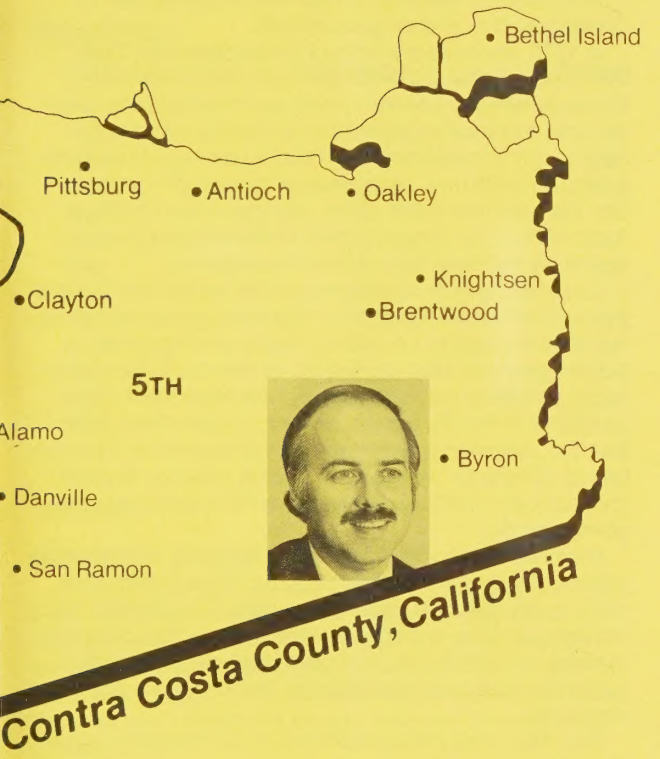
Nancy C. Fahden 372-2080
805 Las Juntas
Martinez, CA 94553

4300 Garden Road
El Sobrante, CA 94803 222-2822

District 3

Robert I. Schroder 284-4733
3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



District 4

Sunne Wright McPeak 687-8663
1331 Concord Avenue
Concord, CA 94520

District 5

Eric H. Hasseltine 439-4138
(Chairman, 1979)
45 Civic Avenue
Pittsburg, CA 94565

120 S. Hartz Avenue
Danville, CA 94526 820-3742

The County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Building, 651 Pine Street, Martinez. All meetings are open to the public.

County Government

Local government is provided in California by (1) counties, (2) cities, and (3) special service districts. All three obtain their authority from the state.

Urbanization has brought far-reaching changes to America and to county government.

In 1776, counties performed limited services. They built roads, collected taxes and recorded documents. But as America's economic and social structures have become more varied, federal and state governments have found it increasingly difficult to manage broad programs and still meet the needs of individual communities. On the other hand, cities and towns are finding it more difficult to cope with environmental and growth problems that spill beyond their boundaries.

Counties have gradually stepped in as the one form of government small enough to respond to grassroot needs, but large enough to coordinate regional programs. County services have multiplied as they try to tackle national problems and challenges. New federally-funded programs in health, social services, employment, housing and community development were given to the counties to administer. As a result, county services at this time are very much a partnership with federal and state governments

Now counties build airports and libraries, run schools, community centers and elections; control floods and solid waste disposal, fight crime, pollution, disease and drug abuse. They provide low-income housing, nutrition services, rehabilitation and crop inspection. They give out welfare checks, food stamps, traffic tickets and vaccinations.

Counties were first established in California to administer state laws at the local level. As legal subdivisions of the state, they are given the responsibility for such areas as the courts and law enforcement, health and sanitation, welfare and corrections, libraries, roads and bridges, flood control and land use planning. County duties include appraising property values, levying and collecting taxes, administering elections, licensing, maintaining vital statistics and a myriad of other governmental activities.

California's constitution of 1879 required the legislature to establish a uniform structure of government for counties. All counties were then governed by established general law, which led to the use of the name "general law county." The constitution was later amended to permit any county by vote of its residents to adopt a charter determining the structure of its government. The 11 counties which have adopted charters are termed "charter counties."

Contra Costa County is a general law county. A five-member board of supervisors is elected by districts which are roughly equal in population. The board controls and is responsible for most county affairs, within the limits of the state constitution and laws.

Also elected are the Municipal and Superior Court judges, the County Board of Education, and seven other county officials. Other officials, department heads, and commissions are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Their duties and powers are prescribed by law.

Population

Year	Population	% Change
1860	5,328	
1870	8,461	58.8
1880	12,625	49.2
1890	13,515	7.0
1900	18,046	33.5
1910	31,674	75.5
1920	53,889	70.1
1930	78,608	45.9
1940	100,450	27.8
1950	298,894	197.6
1960	409,030	36.8
1970	555,805	35.9
1975	582,829	4.9
*1980	646,000	10.8

*estimate

History and Background

Contra Costa County is one of 58 California counties. It was one of the original 27 counties established when California was admitted to the Union in 1849. The 1850 population count is recorded as being lost on the way to Washington, but it is estimated to have been under 2,000. Martinez was named the county seat and has remained so ever since.

The Spanish name Contra Costa means "opposite shore," referring to the fact that the county's western boundaries lay along the eastern shore of the bay opposite San Francisco. In 1853, however, much of that shoreline was lost to the county when the state legislature created Alameda County out of a large portion of Contra Costa County and a smaller portion of Santa Clara County.

When Acting Governor Pedro Fages and Fray Juan Crespi explored the Contra Costa area in 1772, they found lush valleys and peaceful Indian villages. Friendly Indians, singing and dancing, greeted the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition as it travelled through the area in 1776.

In the 1820's and 1830's ranchers settled here, under large land grants from the Spanish and, later, the Mexican governments. They brought herds of cattle, sheep and horses and planted orchards and vineyards. When California was admitted to the Union, the ranchers began selling sections of their grants. Wheat fields, fruit and walnut orchards grew and prospered on the fertile land.

In the late 1800's the Port Costa area became the principal shipping point for grain from the Great Central Valley. Coal mining took place in the hills north of Mount Diablo.

Until 1900, Contra Costa remained mostly agricultural. The turn of the century brought industry, attracted by the availability of water transportation and the coming of the railroad. In 1900, the Santa Fe railroad made Richmond its western terminus. The following year, Standard Oil established its oil refinery there.

During World War I, Contra Costa shared heavily in the industrial development of the San Francisco Bay area. Migration into the central county swelled with the opening of the Caldecott Tunnel in 1937. Following the onset of World War II, industrial, business, and residential growth became explosive. Since then, the county has continued to be in the forefront of growth in the nine-county San Francisco Metropolitan Area.

The county's 70-mile waterfront is of significant importance. Over half of the ocean shipping passing in and out of the Golden Gate is handled through Contra Costa ports. This shoreline is the site of major oil refineries, Northern California's largest steel mill, chemical plants, food plants, and a growing roster of all types of industry, both light and heavy. These industries are served by two transcontinental railways and a network of state and national highways.

The wide valley drained by the Walnut and San Ramon creeks extends through the heart of the county. Because of its beauty and fog-free summers, it has become a large and expanding suburban residential area. Slightly more than half the county's population now lives in the central county. Only one-third lives in the west county.

The eastern portion of the county beyond Pittsburg and Antioch continues as an important agricultural area, part of the famous Delta region of the Central Valley. Along its many waterways are boating and fishing resorts.

Because it stands alone, Mount Diablo dominates Contra Costa County. It is the triangulation point in the West for the U.S. Geodetic Survey. From the top of the 3,900-foot mountain, one can see not only most of the 732.6 square miles of the county's hills and valleys and waterways, but over 40,000 square miles of the earth's surface — possibly more, say some geographers, than is visible from any other sport on the globe.

Contra Costa County is the ninth smallest county in land area of the 58 counties (732.6 square miles land, 73.3 square miles water). It is the ninth largest in population.

City Government

There are fifteen cities in Contra Costa County. These municipalities were formed to provide certain services not furnished by the County or to provide a higher level of available county services. Such additional or augmented services include police protection, fire protection, street maintenance and improvement, traffic control, licensing, recreation, planning and zoning and the establishment of building regulations within their boundaries.

Each city is run by a council elected from within the corporate limits of the city.

Although cities have their own municipal governments, they remain within the county. Basic county services are provided to all county residents, whether they live in a city or in an unincorporated area.

Cities often contract with the County for certain services, such as law enforcement, animal control, road maintenance, and building inspection.

Incorporated Cities

Antioch 757-3333
Area ..... 9.3 square miles
1979 Population 39,050
Form of Government .... Council-Manager

Brentwood 634-3505
Area ..... 2.1 square miles
1979 Population 3,750
Form of Government .... Council-Administrator

Clayton 689-3622
Area ..... 1.2 square miles
1979 Population 3,630
Form of Government .... Council

Concord 671-3000
Area ..... 30 square miles
1979 Population 99,800
Form of Government.... Council-Manager

El Cerrito 234-2323
Area ..... 3.6 square miles
1979 Population 22,200
Form of Government.... Council-Manager

Hercules 724-2489
Area ..... 4.2 square miles
1979 Population 3,740
Form of Government .... Council

Lafayette 284-1968
Area ..... 13.5 square miles
1979 Population 19,750
Form of Government .... Council-Manager

Martinez 372-4903
Area ..... 9.7 square miles
1979 Population 21,650
Form of Government .... Council-Manager

Moraga 376-5200
Area ..... 9.5 square miles
1979 Population 14,950
Form of Government .... Council-Manager

Pinole 724-9000
Area ..... 4 square miles
1979 Population 14,950
Form of Government .... Council-Manager

Pittsburg 439-4850
Area ..... 11.1 square miles
1979 Population 28,400
Form of Government .... Council-Manager

Pleasant Hill 934-6050
Area ..... 9 square miles
1979 Population 25,350
Form of Government .... Council-Manager

Richmond 231-2035
Area ..... 32.8 square miles
1979 Population 68,300
Form of Government .... Charter-Council-Manager

San Pablo 234-6440
Area ..... 2.6 square miles
1979 Population 18,450
Form of Government .... Council-Manager

Walnut Creek 935-3300
Area ..... 16 square miles
1979 Population 50,500
Form of Government .... Council-Manager

NOTE: *All population figures are based on State Department of Finance statistics as of Jan. 1, 1979.*

Special Districts

Special districts provide a particular service to a specific area or group of citizens, initiated by petition of voters living in that area. Many special districts are experiencing difficult financial problems inasmuch as they cannot levy additional property taxes to pay for services as was done before passage of Article 13A of the state constitution.

Districts and Service Areas Governed by the Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors serves as the ex-officio governing body for 68 special districts and service areas. The districts are county sanitation (4), fire protection (13), flood control (1), storm drain maintenance (2), store drainage (1) and Water Agency. Service areas are: drainage (5), fire (1), street lighting (4), library construction (5), police (4), parks/recreation (6), road maintenance (1) and miscellaneous (20).

Districts Governed by Local Boards

There are 50 independent special districts, governed by elected officials. Most are single purpose districts and are autonomous. These are: community services (2), county sanitation (1), county water (3), fire protection (4), irrigation (2), local hospital (3), mosquito abatement (2), municipal improvement (1), public cemetery (2), reclamation (10), recreation/park (5), resource conservation (1), sanitary (8), and inter-county (6).

School Districts

Contra Costa County has 19 school districts, all of which are governed by independently elected school boards.

These boards determine policy for the operation of the schools; enforce the course of study and compliance with laws and regulations; employ teachers and other personnel; and are responsible for the construction, maintenance and operation of school buildings and equipment.

These districts are: community college (1), high school (2), unified (7) and elementary (9).

The Budget

It is not generally known by the public that many of the services and programs operated by the county government are required by state and federal law. In some cases, such as the welfare programs, the level of service is also mandated. Counties must abide by the rules and regulations established for mandated programs by the state and federal government. Boards of supervisors have discretion over a small portion of such expenditures, which limits their ability to control the budget.

The county is required by law to operate various public assistance (welfare) programs locally and to pay part — approximately 10% — of the expenses with local funds. Other major mandated programs include most of the operations of the judicial system (district attorney-public administrator, county clerk-recorder, the courts and marshals) and many of the services of the offices of the assessor and the treasurer-tax collector. A large percentage of the county's activities in the areas of health, medical services, probation, and rehabilitation also are required.

The county also receives a substantial amount of federal and state funding which is dedicated for a specific purpose. The county is the recipient of highway users (gasoline) tax and grants for health projects, social services and manpower which are dedicated only for particular programs. As a result, the amount of budgeted monies over which the Board of Supervisors has discretionary spending power is limited to about 25% of the total budget.

The Budget Process

Probably the most important action taken by the Board of Supervisors each year is the adoption of a budget which provides a financial plan, including anticipated revenues and expenditures, for the operation of county departments and agencies during a fiscal year, July 1 through June 30.

During the year, county departments prepare their budget needs and requests. The requests are reviewed and analyzed by the office of the county administrator. The administrator prepares a proposed budget for board consideration, based on public needs and funds available to pay for the service.

The Board of Supervisors' Finance Committee meets with all department heads and holds public meetings to review their budgets. The committee makes a recommendation to the whole board at which time the board holds public hearings. The budget must be adopted no later than August 30.

During the fiscal or budget year, the administrator's staff and departmental finance officers continue to monitor spending.

Growth and Change in the County Budget

In 1970-71 the total county budget was about $137 million. By 1979-80, ten years later, the budget was $259 million.

This increase is attributable to a number of factors, including the expansion of public assistance and health care programs, soaring criminal activity increasing the requirements for police protection, detention facilities and the entire legal system, manpower programs designed to train persons for jobs and the impact of inflation upon expenditure levels.

In 1977-78, the basic county tax rate for county government services was $2.36 per $100 of assessed valuation, and the overall average rate was $11.173 per $100 countywide (including cities, special districts and school districts). The overall rate ranged from a low of $6.728 in Crockett/Rodeo to a high of $14.013 in Pittsburg.

Proposition 13, passed by California voters in June 1978, now requires a countywide tax rate of $4 per $100 assessed valuation, which is divided among the county, cities, special districts and school districts. In addition to this, the taxpayer is billed for bond debts, previously approved by voters and for special fees such as sewer service charges.

In fiscal year 1977-78, the year immediately preceding Proposition 13, the county received $82.5 million in property taxes. The property taxes allocated to the county in fiscal year 1979-80 plunged to $43.5 million, a decrease of $39 million. The county received approximately 53% of the property taxes received two years earlier, despite a significant rise in inflation.

Because there was such a large drop in property tax revenue, these government agencies asked and received financial help from the State of California to assist them with current service obligations while long-range adjustments to the reduced income could be made. One of the initial moves taken by many jurisdictions was to set fees and service charges to help pay for the cost of services which had not been self-sustaining.

Estimated Revenues

There are seven major county revenue sources other than the property tax:

State and Federal Aid:

This includes amounts received from the state and federal government primarily for welfare, health, community improvement, and employment and property tax relief programs.

Charges for Current Services:

These revenues come from fees collected for various road, community development, and general services performed by the County.

Taxes Other than Current Property:

Most of this revenue is the county share of sales and use taxes collected in the unincorporated area. The remainder is composed of penalties on delinquent taxes, a percentage of the sales tax collected in the cities, a real estate transfer tax, and business franchise taxes.

Use of Money and Property:

All revenue not needed for the immediate operation of the County is invested, thus developing interest, which comprises most of the revenue in this category.

Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties:

Most of this revenue is generated by vehicle code and other court-imposed fines.

Licenses and Permits:

This revenue is derived from the issuance of animal, marriage, and business licenses, plus the fees collected for building and zoning permits.

Other Revenue:

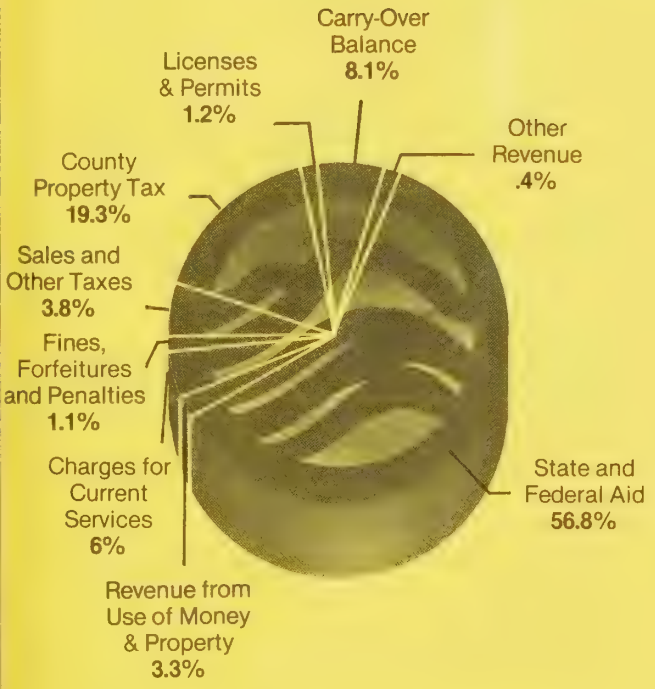
This is revenue applicable to prior years, including sale of items being replaced (mainly automobiles and trucks), the sale of maps and documents, insurance receipts, and miscellaneous small items.

Total County Revenue

Source	*1978-79*	*1979-80*
County Property Tax	$ 35,410,102	$ 43,550,405
State and Federal Aid	124,951,341*	128,486,774
Charges for Current Serv.	9,814,553**	13,638,267
Sales and Other Taxes	10,978,600	8,587,135
Revenue from Use of Money & Property	4,500,260	7,437,350
Fines, Forfeitures & Penalties	1,732,280	2,357,570
Licenses & Permits	2,681,350	2,796,080
Other Revenue	1,247,900	960,665
Carry-Over Balance	13,261,582	18,294,230
Total	$204,577,968	$226,108,476

*Includes state block grant ("bailout") assistance

**Does not include money received for county medical services, which are placed in an enterprise fund.


Carry-Over Balance 8.1%
Licenses & Permits 1.2%
Other Revenue .4%
County Property Tax 19.3%
Sales and Other Taxes 3.8%
Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties 1.1%
Charges for Current Services 6%
State and Federal Aid 56.8%
Revenue from Use of Money & Property 3.3%

County Expenditures

The various services and functions of county government are grouped in general areas for budgetary expenditure purposes.

Public Assistance:

Administration of welfare program and payment to recipients, caring for children who are wards of the courts, services to county veterans, manpower programs and community improvement and development.

Public Protection:

The Court system, Clerk-Recorder, Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation services, Jail, Department of Agriculture, Building Inspection, Planning, Animal Control, Flood Control, Civil Defense, and other services.

Health and Sanitation:

County contribution to medical services; and public health, crippled children's services, and sanitation services performed by the County Health and Public Works Departments.

Public Works:

Maintenance and construction of the county road system and airport, as well as related public works administrative expenses.

General and Administrative:

General county government, including central administration, property assessment, tax collection, elections, building occupancy and financial administration for county and special district operations. It also includes various management and maintenance and operation functions.

Education, Debt Service and Other

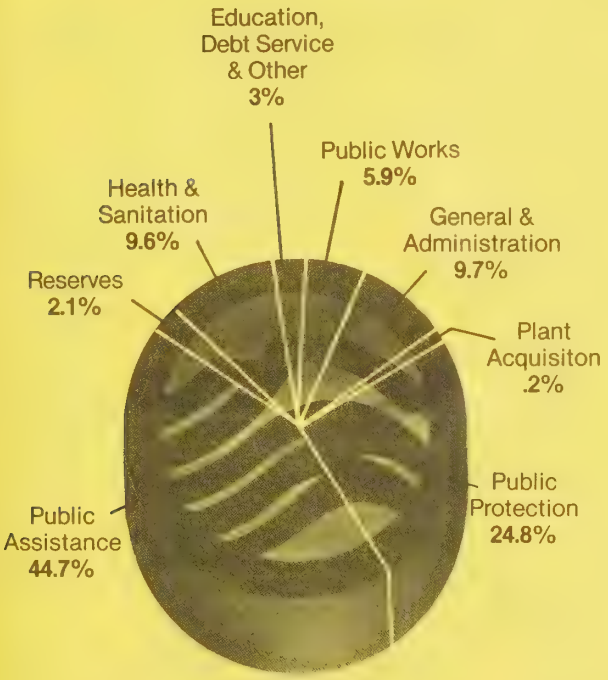
Operation of the County Library system and the County Department of Education; interest expense on borrowed funds.

Total County Expenditures

Function	*1978-79 Budget*	*1979-80 Budget*
Public Assistance	$88,549,060	$101,129,376
Public Protection	51,709,608	56,038,483
Health & Sanitation	21,641,472*	21,653,113
Public Works	11,745,543	13,341,594
General Administration	17,787,344	21,906,601
Plant Aquisition	1,558,000	521,625
Education, Debt Service & Other	6,146,752	6,749,134
Reserves	5,440,189	4,768,550
Total	$204,577,968	$226,108,476

* Does not include that portion of the county hospital's enterprise fund which is reimbursed through patient payments for service.

Total County Expenditures



The Property Tax Dollar

For convenience to the public and low-cost, efficient administration, the Treasurer-Tax Collector of Contra Costa County collects and the Auditor-Controller redistributes property taxes for cities, school districts and special districts, as well as for the county government. As a result, many citizens believe that the County is receiving all of their property tax dollar. In fact, the County receives less than one-fourth of the total property tax levy.

The distribution of the average property tax dollar among the various jurisdictions in Contra Costa County is as follows:

Distribution of County Property Tax

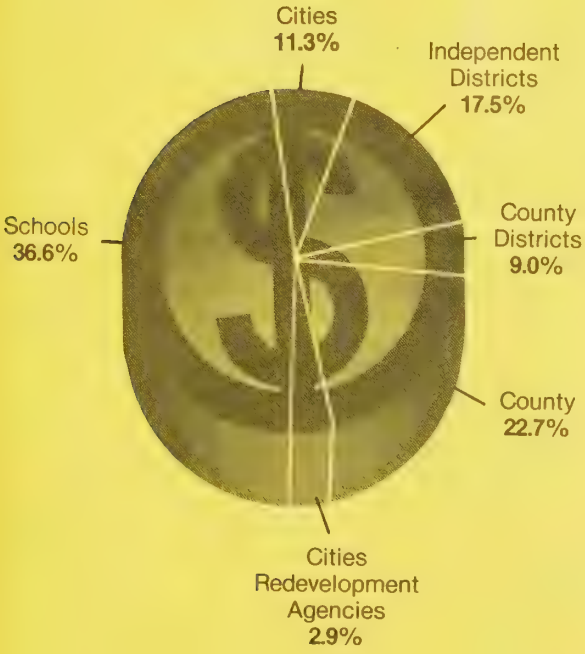
	1978-79	*1979-80**
County	$ 39,400,843	$ 49,039,551
County Special Districts	9,456,329	19,538,076
Independent Special Districts	33,123,605	37,926,606
Schools	102,750,501	79,296,845
Cities	15,622,425	24,528,927
Cities Redevelopment Agencies	2,922,642	6,270,406
	$203,276,345	$216,600,411

*Includes Homeowners' Exemption and Business Inventory reimbursement.

Tax Requirements Per Capita

Year	*Population*	*Needed Co. Taxes*	*$ / Capita*
1949-50	298,984	$ 7,296,123	$ 24.40
1954-55	336,900	12,391,105	36.77
1959-60	409,030	19,253,293	47.07
1964-65	486,860	27,726,702	56.95
1969-70	555,805	48,258,627	86.83
1974-75	582,829	69,516,576	119.27
1979-80	635,300	43,550,405	68.55

Distribution of County Property Tax



The Board of Supervisors ***Budget: $433,730***

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body for Contra Costa County and many county special districts.

Each of the five members of the board is elected on a non-partisan basis to a four-year term. Their terms overlap: Districts 2, 3 and 5 elect their supervisors during presidential election years and districts 1 and 4 during state general election years. Board members begin their terms at the first meeting in January, at which time they choose a new chairman and vice-chairman.

The board has a status not unlike the board of directors of a large corporation in that it sets policies and depends on the county administrator, county officials, and department heads to carry out its wishes.

The board performs legislative, administrative, and appellate functions prescribed to it by the California state constitution and statutes. Among its responsibilities are enacting ordinances and resolutions, approving formal contracts and agreements, setting employee salaries, adopting budgets, and levying taxes.

The board exercises its appellate powers primarily by holding hearings and deciding appeals from actions taken by administrative departments of the county government.

It must adopt an annual budget which provides for the entire cost of county government.

The board has control of the budget and manpower of the courts and departments headed by elected officials, but operational control lies with those officials: the assessor, auditor-controller, clerk-recorder, district attorney-public administrator, sheriff-coroner, superintendent of schools, and treasurer-tax collector.

The Board appoints the county administrator, certain department heads and members of many advisory boards and commissions.

The board is also the governing body of a variety of special districts and county service areas formed to provide such services as fire protection, lighting, recreation and flood control. Other special districts are governed by independent boards elected by the people or appointed by the board.

The business of the board is conducted publicly each Tuesday in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Building in Martinez, the county seat. Public hearings are set at other times when special issues need to be aired.

Board meetings are only a part of the work of the members, who must attend dozens of other types of meetings, listen to suggestions and complaints of county residents, participate in a variety of civic activities, and investigate and resolve a wide assortment or problems. They are called on to meet with elected representatives and officials of other government agencies. And they serve on a variety of local, state, regional, and federal government boards, committees and commissions.

Administration

County Administrator ***Budget: $807,731***

The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and serves as the chief administrative officer for the County. As the agent of the Board, this person directs and coordinates the work of the County departments and agencies.

The Administrator, with the assistance of his staff, puts into action the policies, rules, and regulations adopted by the Board. He makes recommendations on County policies and procedures, prepares the recommended County budget, and establishes and enforces personnel policies and practices.

Personnel ***Budget: $1,560,431***

The Director of Personnel is appointed by the County Administrator and also serves as executive secretary to the Civil Service Commission. This department handles personnel services for the County and special districts, including recruiting, examining job applicants and classifying jobs; labor relations; employee training and accident prevention; employee benefits; and affirmative action programs.

Office of Emergency Services ***Budget: $212,505***

The OES is a division of the County Administrator's office. It coordinates the work of public and private agencies in preparing and training for disasters and major emergencies. The office maintains the County's emergency operations center and emergency services communications systems and serves as the focal point for emergency operations.

Other duties include: handling oil and hazardous chemical accidents, directing the countywide radiation safety program, maintaining the county's weather information system, acquiring surplus federal property and equipment, and offering public information and training in emergency and disaster-related subjects.

General Government

Assessor ***Budget: $4,251,322***

The Assessor is elected for a four-year term to administer state law. This department determines the fair and equitable value of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and personal property for property tax purposes. (Public utilities are valued by the State Board of Equalization.)

On or before July 1 each year, the Assessor presents the assessment roll to the County Auditor-Controller. This roll, together with the utility roll, is a list of all property in the county which is subject to local property taxes. The Auditor uses this information to figure the property taxes due.

The Assessor also is responsible for maintaining maps showing property ownership and processing all claims for exemption filed by property owners.

Services of County Government

County Boar

County A

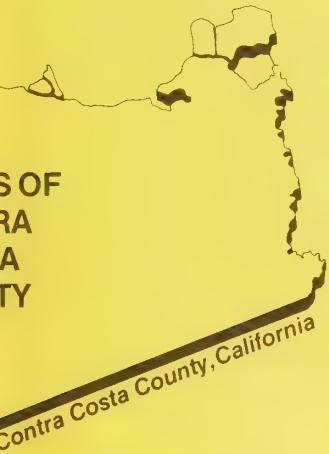
HUMAN SERVICES

- Health Services
- Social Services
- Manpower
- Community Services
- Veterans' Services

GENERAL GOVT. & FINANCE

- *Assessor
- *Auditor-Controller
- *Treasurer-Tax Collector
- Personnel
- County Counsel
- *Education
- Library
- Coop. Extension
- Retirement

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS



Supervisors

nistrator

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Public Works
- Planning
- Building Inspection

LAW & JUSTICE

- *Courts
- *Sheriff-Coroner
- Public Defender
- *District Attorney
- Probation
- *Clerk-Recorder
- Agriculture
- Animal Services

*elected offices

Auditor-Controller — *Budget: $3,422,980*

The Auditor-Controller is elected for a four-year term. This person is the chief fiscal officer of the County and of special districts and school districts.

The Auditor-Controller's office is a "watchdog" over the legality of expenditures and the proper handling of receipts. It prepares financial reports required by the state and conducts financial audits of the County's many diversified departments and special districts. It is also responsible for data processing, centralized purchasing and in-house reproduction services.

To assist with budget-making, the Auditor-Controller tabulates the County's revenues and its expenditures program and compiles the assessed valuation from the Assessor's rolls. He computes the tax bills that are distributed by the Tax Collector.

Treasurer-Tax Collector — *Budget: $1,030,770*

The Treasurer-Tax Collector is elected for a four-year term. The duty of this office is to receive, invest and maintain the cash flow for the County government and special districts. It collects property taxes and unsecured taxes for school districts, special districts and cities, as well as for the County government itself.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector's department also collects inheritance taxes, county license fees, and public health permits. It is the paying agent on municipal bonds and pays County warrants for supplies and services and the salaries of County and special district employees. It manages the investment portfolio for the County employees' retirement system. It holds in trust money in the estates of persons who have died without making a will, until it is disbursed according to law.

Retirement — *Budget: No longer in county budget*

The Retirement Administrator and staff are appointed by the Board of Retirement. Their salaries and all costs of administration of the retirement system are paid from earnings of the fund.

This office administers the 1937 retirement law as it applies to permanent employees scheduled to work at least one-half time for the County or any of the twelve independent special districts of the County which have elected to be covered by that law, providing service and disability retirement payments to eligible employees and survivor benefits to beneficiaries of deceased employees or retirees.

County Counsel ***Budget: $838,515***

The County Counsel is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and is the legal advisor for all County government officers, departments, commissions, and districts.

This office represents these officials in civil court actions and prepares ordinances, resolutions, elections documents and other legal matters for them. The County Counsel attends all Board of Supervisors meetings, and deputy county counsels attend some meetings of various commissions and governing bodies, to give legal advice and handle legal problems that arise.

Education

Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education ***Budget: $274,456***

The Superintendent of Schools is elected to a four-year term. He supervises implementation of the direction, goals and laws of education as determined by the Legislature and State Department of Education.

Administered by the superintendent and governed by the County Board of Education, the Department of Education provides business, administrative and coordinating support to county school districts. It also operates special schools and classes for the handicapped, Neighborhood Youth Corps programs, juvenile court schools and prison education for the Sheriff-Coroner's Office.

The elected, seven-member board reviews and approves the superintendent's budget, approves teaching credentials, recommends life diplomas, adopts educational films, hears appeals in interdistrict attendance disputes and reviews agreements with school districts and other governmental agencies. Since 1972, it has acted as the County Committee on School District Organization, reviewing proposals for school district boundary changes and transfer of territory.

Cooperative Extension ***County Share: $94,543***

Educational and advisory services in agriculture, home economics, and 4-H club work are provided by this department.

The University of California assigns professional advisors to provide information programs and literature about farm and family food production, nutrition, youth activities, pest control, and the environment. Federal and state funds assist in financing these services.

County Library ***Budget: $5,227,945***

The County Librarian is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. His department provides a comprehensive library and information service to all county residents (except Richmond). The public has ready access to a wide range of materials, including 153,697 separate book titles and 930,428 total volumes, 794 periodicals and newspapers currently received, 8,391 phonograph discs, 889 8mm and 16mm films and art exhibits and displays.

More than three million items were loaned in 1978-79 fiscal year, while nearly 360,000 individual research and reference questions were answered. Story hours, lectures and other library programs attracted more than 17,600 people. Another 12,000 attended 534 separate meetings and programs in library meeting room facilities.

The library has begun a special project to serve the deaf and hearing impaired, installing a teletype to receive and transmit printed messages by telephone and sending some librarians to sign language classes.

Library services are provided at 16 branch facilities, four sub-branches, the Central Library and a mobile lunit that makes 37 stops countywide.

Human Services

Health Services ***Budget: $54,145,542***

In 1979 the Board of Supervisors disbanded the Human Resources Agency and a consolidated Health Services Department was organized. The department has three major program divisions as well as a prepaid health plan/health maintenance organization bureau and a management and administration division. The three program divisions are: Medical Care, Alcohol/Drug Abuse/Mental Health, and Public Health.

Medical Care *Budget: $25,994,889*

Medical Care Division provides acute inpatient hospital services at the Medical Center in Martinez and outpatient services through clinics in Martinez, Richmond, Pittsburg and Oakley. Transfer of the services provided in Oakley to an improved facility in Brentwood is scheduled in the near future. The acute inpatient hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation, a national audit activity designed to insure proper facility maintenance and safety as well as the quality of medical care. The Medical Care Division also operates a variety of training programs to include in-service nursing and the American Medical Association accredited residency program in Family Practice, a program which is affiliated with the Department of Family Practice, School of Medicine, University of California at Davis.

Alcohol/Drug Abuse/
Mental Health *Budget: $18,229,063*

The Alcohol/Drug Abuse/Mental Health Division provides inpatient psychiatric services in Martinez and outpatient services through clinics in Richmond, San Pablo, Martinez, Pittsburg, Brentwood, Antioch and Concord for alcohol/drug addiction, developmental disabilities and psychiatric problems. It operates long-term residential facilities, halfway houses, semi-independent living setting, vocational program, day treatment, case management and socialization for this same population. Additionally, the Division provides consultation, evaluation and information services for the community at large.

Public Health *Budget: $9,921,590*

The Public Health Division provides a broad spectrum of preventive health services, including health screening clinics for children, teenagers and senior citizens, as well as immunization, family planning and veneral disease clinics. It also administers programs in communicable disease control; crippled children's services; women, infant and children's food supplements; nutrition for the elderly; nursing home information; bedside nursing and home health care; and alcohol problems. Public health nursing, nutrition, dental health, and community health education programs are also conducted. Environmental health protection responsibilities are carried out through inspections of food establishments, water supplies, public swimming pools, sewage disposal and garbage collection systems, and a rodent control program. Regulations respecting solid waste disposal and occupational health safeguards are enforced. Cooperation is extended to regional agencies in controlling air, water and noise pollution.

Prepaid Health Plan/Health Maintenance Organization and the Contra Costa Health Plan

Currently, the PHP/HMO are prepaid health care programs for persons eligible for Medi-Cal and Medicare benefits. Persons with Medicare only may also enroll. The department is also developing a core health maintenance organization known as Contra Costa Health Plan (CCHP). Application for federal qualification for the CCHP has been submitted and approval is anticipated in 1980. On approval of federal qualification, enrollment will expand to other persons in the county, including medically indigent and private full-pay enrollees. The goal is to enroll all users of the Health Services Department in the CCHP while concurrently phasing out the present PHP/HMO. A health maintenance organization such as the CCHP is a proven cost containment health delivery system where the principal incentive is to keep members of the plan well by extensive use of ambulatory services and preventive services. The CCHP also provides for consumer input through a grievance system and an advisory board appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.

Social Service *Budget: $89,547,466*

The Social Service Department provides assistance to the poor, medically needy, and handicapped, to help them improve their circumstances and become independent. It supplies social services for the whole community, including adoption and foster care services; protective services to prevent abuse and neglect of children and adults; in-home care for the homebound; counseling for families with problems; and referrals to other service agencies.

Manpower Programs *Budget: $9,377,540*

The Department of Manpower Programs administers the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), serving the economically disadvantaged, unemployed and underemployed of Contra Costa County. It administers a new private sector initiative program in cooperation with local private industry, currently in the planning phase. Manpower directs a job development and training program which helped gain unsubsidized employment for approximately 50% of fiscal year 1979 enrollees; an on-the-job training program for veterans; and three youth programs which provided basic and skills training, job information, counseling, work experience and employment to more than 3,100 low-income youth. It also manages two public service employment (PSE) programs, giving persons long unemployed the skills training to enhance their ability to obtain unsubsidized employment.

Veterans Service Officer ***Budget: $146,030***

The Veterans Service Officer is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to assist veterans and their dependents in obtaining the benefits they are due under the law. This office helps them present claims for compensation and pensions and to apply for hospitalization, Veterans Administration insurance and other benefits.

Community Services ***Budget: $856,580***

This office administers programs for low-income families in areas such as information and referral, citizen participation, and services directed to youth and senior citizens. It is the local extension of the federal Community Services Administration, which provides its operating funds.

Public Protection

Courts and Marshals ***Budget: $8,034,709***

Superior Court

The Superior Court judges are elected to six-year terms on a staggered basis. They are in reality state officers who sit in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Contra Costa.

This is the chief trial court, with jurisdiction in equity, probate, insanity, juvenile and felony cases, and in civil cases involving more than $15,000.

Municipal Courts

Municipal Court judges are elected to six-year terms. They conduct hearings for misdemeanor cases and for persons with traffic violations. These courts have jurisdiction in civil matters to $15,000. Each Municipal Court has a Marshal, who serves as bailiff and process/server for that district.

Grand Jury

This body of 19 electors, selected by the Superior Court, hears evidence against non-charged persons suspected of crime and decides if they are to be brought to trial. It also probes the need for improved local government operations and investigates public officers suspected of misconduct of office. The Grand Jury presents a report at the end of its year-long term, detailing the investigations and suggestions of its committees.

Superior Court Administrator-Jury Commissioner

This person is appointed by the judges of the Superior Court to organize and administer the non-judicial activities of the Superior Court; manage the court calendar; prepare and administer the court budget; maintain statistics and assignment records; and recommend improvements in the court's administrative system. The Jury Commissioner certifies a list of trial jurors for the Superior and Municipal Courts; draws, summons, and instructs jurors.

Sheriff-Coroner — *Budget: $18,740,681*

The Sheriff-Coroner is elected for a four-year term. This department provides police services in unincorporated areas and where commissioned by cities, directs the county's detention facilities, serves civil processes and provides a bailiff for each Superior Court, and supplies communication services for fire districts, school districts, ambulance companies and other law enforcement agencies.

The Coroner's office conducts investigations on all violent deaths and deaths for which no attending physician can certify cause. It notifies the next of kin of the death and safeguards property on the body.

The Sheriff coordinates with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in enforcing local and state laws. The department's criminalistics laboratory provides all law enforcement agencies in the county with scientific analysis of evidence. Other programs run by the department include: burglary prevention and investigation, a marine patrol in county waterways, a litter control program, and community relations programs such as ride-along and classroom education programs and minority recruitment. The department also administers a 200-member volunteer force of reserve deputies, cadets and a search and rescue group.

Probation — *Budget: $12,893,130*

The County Probation Officer is appointed by the Superior Court Juvenile Judge. This department investigates and reports to the court on sentences or special programs for persons convicted of crimes and youngsters brought before Juvenile Court. It advises the court on bail for persons awaiting trial, and supervises persons during their probationary period.

The department operates Juvenile Hall, Byron Boys Ranch, Youth Center and the Preplacement Center. It also makes recommendations to the court on cases of child abandonment and contested child custody.

Clerk and Recorder — *Budget: $3,386,949*

The Clerk-Recorder is elected for a four-year term. This office serves as clerk to the Board of Supervisors and the Superior Court. It keeps court records; issues notices and processes; files real estate, and other legal documents; records births and deaths; issues marriage licenses and dog licenses; registers company names; receives applications for citizenship; registers voters and conducts elections.

A chief clerk is designated to serve as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Staff members of the Clerk of the Board's office attend all board meetings, prepare agendas for meetings, and maintain all official records for the board. This office also schedules all petitions for hearings before the Assessment Appeals Board.

District Attorney - Public Administrator — *Budget: $6,432,965*

The District Attorney is elected for a four-year term. As the chief law officer of the county, this person is responsible for prosecuting all criminals who commit crimes within the county. In order to do so, this office makes investigations of crimes, extradites known criminals to be returned for trial, gathers witnesses for trials, and researches cases.

As Public Administrator, he takes charge of all property in the county of persons who die without a will or without heirs or with heirs living outside of the state. As Public Guardian, this person is appointed by the Superior Court and given authority over the person and estates of individuals who are mentally incompetent to handle their own affairs.

The Office of the District Attorney is also responsible for handling welfare fraud, paternity, consumer fraud, major fraud, pollution, election, and conflict of interest cases. Under state law, this office collects family support payments from absent fathers who fail to provide for their minor children.

Public Defender — *Budget: $2,967,330*

The Public Defender is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to provide legal defense for persons who are too poor to employ an attorney and who are charged with criminal offenses or otherwise face possible loss of liberty under California laws. Recent court decisions and laws have expanded the work of the Public Defender to include legal assistance for minors in juvenile court and for persons alleged to be mentally ill who are facing court proceedings.

Department of Agriculture — *Budget: $856,640*

The head of this two division department, the Agricultural Commissioner — Director of Weights and Measures, is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Acting under the direction of the state Director of Food and Agriculture, the department enforces state agriculture laws pertaining to plant quarantine, nursery stock, agriculture and vegetable seeds, pesticides, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables and apiaries. The department also gathers crop statistics, provides information on pest control and performs vertebrate pest control.

As the enforcement agent of the State Division of Measurement Standards, the department checks the accuracy of all weighing and measuring devices used by merchants to sell their goods, including scales and gasoline pumps. In addition, the department checks most packaged and canned goods ranging from grocery items to petroleum products to determine if the goods contain the stated amount.

Animal Services ***Budget: $1,345,761***

The Director of Animal Services is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This department was created in 1979 and was formerly a division of the Department of Agriculture. The department enforces state laws and county ordinances related to animals; maintains animal centers; quarantines biting animals; impounds lost or at-large animals; disposes of unwanted, diseased and dead animals; operates a low-cost spay, neuter and vaccinatin clinic; and conducts an education program on responsible pet ownership.

Community Development

Public Works ***Budget: $19,960,112***

The Public Works Director is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The department employes about 540 persons, the majority of whom are in the maintenance of 1,000 miles of county roads and some 300 county-occupied buildings. The department administers major public programs in transportation, flood control, land development, parks and recreation, environmental services and emergency communications. It also provides service programs to other county departments such as operation and maintenance of county vehicles and maintenance equipment, buildings and grounds, and property acquisition and lease management. Public Works operates the Buchanan Field Airport, special district services (flood control, street lighting, sewer and water) and, through the Water Agency, is a watchdog for water quality protection.

Building Inspection ***Budget: $2,398,524***

The director of this department is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This office enforces ordinances regulating building construction and occupancy in the unincorporated areas and on contract with some cities. It issues building permits for building plans which meet regulations. It examines work underway to see that it complies with ordinances and the terms of the permit. It also administers the housing rehabilitation portion of the Housing and Community Development Program.

Planning ***Budget: $1,509,660***

The Planning Director is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This department prepares general plans for orderly county growth and regulates land use. It prepares and administers zoning and subdivision ordinances, prepares environmental impact reports, hears requests for variances, reviews site development plans, and reviews proposed public projects for compliance with the general plan. It also staffs county boards and commissions dealing with planning, and administers the Housing and Community Development Program.

Elected County Officials

Assessor	834 Court Street
Carl S. Rush	Martinez 94553
Auditor-Controller	Finance Building
Donald L. Bouchet	Martinez 94553
Clerk-Recorder	Courthouse
James R. Olsson	Martinez 94553
District Attorney-Public Administrator	Courthouse
William A. O'Malley	Martinez 94553
Sheriff-Coroner	Administration Bldg.
Richard K. Rainey	Martinez 94553
Superintendent of Schools	75 Santa Barbara Road
Dr. Richard T. LaPointe	Pleasant Hill 94523
Treasurer-Tax Collector	Finance Building
Alfred P. Lomeli	Martinez 94553
Superior Court Judges:	
Robert J. Cooney	Courthouse
Presiding Judge	Martinez 94553
Sam W. Hall	
Richard E. Arnason	
Max Wilcox,Jr.	
Norman A. Gregg	
Richard P. Calhoun	
David A. Dolgin	
Martin E. Rothenberg	
Thomas F. McBride	
William R. Channell	
Coleman Fannin	
E. Patricia Herron	
Municipal Court Judges	
Bay Judicial District	100 — 37th Street
George D. Carroll	Richmond 94805
David W. Calfee	
Bessie P. Dreibelbis	
Thomas F. Curtin	
Robert G. McGrath	
Delta Judicial District	45 Civic Avenue
Manuel C. Rose	Pittsburg 94565
Gerald A. Belleci	
Mt. Diablo	1950 Parkside Drive
Judicial District	Concord 94519
Norman Spellberg	
John D. Hatzenbuhler	
Louis L. Edmunds	
Ellen S. James	
Walnut Creek-Danville	640 Ygnacio Valley Road
Judicial District	Walnut Creek 94598
Michael J. Phelan	
Joseph R. Longacre, Jr.	
John C. Minney	

County Board of Education

*Daniel M. Arteaga**
M. Ofelia Crofts
Primo Ruiz
William F. Dowling
Mary Ann Hruska
Charles Spears
*Lucille Mauzy***

75 Santa Barbara Road
Pleasant Hill 94523

**Replaced Nov. 30 by Ned Clyde*

***Replaced Nov. 30 by Alice Johnson*

Appointed County Officials

County Administrator *Melvyrn G. Wingett*	Administration Bldg. Martinez 94553
Agricultural Commissioner-Director of Weights and Measures *Kenneth E. Danielson*	161 John Glenn Drive Concord 94520
Director, Animal Services *Diane Iwasa*	4849 Imhoff Drive Martinez 94553
Director, Building Inspection *Robert E. Geise*	Administration Bldg. Martinez 94553
Director, Community Services *Ida Daniel Berk*	2265 Contra Costa Blvd. Pleasant Hill 94523
Director, Cooperative Extension (UCB) *J. Joseph Coony*	960 East Street Pittsburg 94565
County Counsel *John B. Clausen*	Administration Bldg. Martinez 94553
Director, Office of Emergency Services *Will H. Perry*	50 Glacier Drive Martinez 94553
Director, Health Services *Dr. Arnold S. Leff*	County Hospital Martinez 94553
Librarian *Clarence R. Walters*	1750 Oak Park Blvd. Pleasant Hill 94523
Executive Officer, Local Agency Formation Commission *Dewey Mansfield*	Administration Bldg. Martinez 94553
Director, Manpower Programs *Judy Ann Miller*	2425 Bisso Lane Concord 94523

Director, Personnel *Charles J. Leonard*	Administration Bldg. Martinez 94553
Director, Planning *Anthony A. Dehaesus*	Administration Bldg. Martinez 94553
Probation Officer *Gerald S. Buck*	Administration Bldg. Martinez 94553
Public Defender *Patrick R. Murphy*	610 Court Street Martinez 94553
Director, Public Works *Vernon L. Cline*	Administration Bldg. Martinez 94553
Retirement Administrator *Betty J. Lanoue*	Finance Bldg. Martinez 94553
Director, Social Service *Robert E. Jornlin*	2401 Stanwell Drive Concord 94520
Superior Court Administrator-Jury Commissioner *Russell D. Cramer*	Courthouse Martinez 94553
Veterans' Service Officer *Elmer R. Rieger*	930 Ward Street Martinez 94553

Major Boards and Commissions

	Meetings Held
Council on Aging 671-4233	9:30 a.m. third Wednesday 2401 Stanwell Dr., Concord
Airport Land Use Commission 372-2031	7:30 p.m. fourth Wednesday County Administration Bldg.
Alcoholism Advisory Board 372-4395	3 p.m. fourth Wednesday 622 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill
Assessment Appeals Board 372-2374	Generally 9 a.m. Wednesday County Administration Bldg.
Board of Education 944-3432	7:30 p.m. generally second and fourth Wednesday, 2371 Stanwell Drive, Concord
Child Health and Disability Prevention Advisory Board 671-4464	7:30 p.m. on third Thursday, alternate months 3020 Grant St., Concord
Civil Service Commission 372-4064	7:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays, 500 Court St., Martinez
Correctional and Detention Services Advisory Commission 372-4496	11 a.m. first Monday various locations
Criminal Justice Agency Planning Board 685-5335	8:30 a.m. third Thursday, alternate months various locations
Drug Abuse Board 372-4395	7:30 p.m. third Tuesday 622 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill
Economic Opportunity Council 944-3333	8 p.m. third Thursday County Administration Bldg.
Emergency Medical Care Committee 944-3320	4 p.m. third Wednesday John Muir Hospital Walnut Creek
Employees' Retirement Board 372-4137	8:30 a.m. second Tuesday 1111 Pine St., Martinez
Family and Children's Services Advisory Board 671-4202	12:30 p.m. second Tuesday, 2401 Stanwell Dr., Concord

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Health Maintenance Organization Advisory Board 372-2920	4 p.m. third Thursday Allstate Savings, Main and Las Juntas, Martinez
Hospice Policy Body 372-4258	5 p.m. third Tuesday, 1331 Concord Ave., Concord
Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee 372-2035	7:30 p.m. first Wednesday 3020 Grant St., Concord
Housing Authority Commission 228-5330	5:30 p.m. fourth Wednesday 3133 Estudillo St., Martinez
Human Services Advisory Commission 372-2919	7:30 p.m. second and fourth Wednesdays 255 Glacier Dr., Martinez
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions 372-2733	9:30 a.m. third Monday various locations
Local Agency Formation Commission 372-4090	1:30 p.m. second Wednesday County Administration Bldg.
Manpower Advisory Council 671-4239	1:30 p.m. third Monday various locations
Mental Health Advisory Board 372-4395	4:30 p.m. second Thursday County Hospital
Mobile Home Advisory Committee 372-2622	1 p.m. third Monday 1331 Concord Ave., Concord
Paratransit Coordinating Council 372-2155	2 p.m. fourth Monday County Administration Bldg.
Planning Commission 372-2026	7:30 p.m. most Tuesdays County Administration Bldg.
Solar Energy Advisory Committee 372-2035	8:30 a.m. first and third Wednesdays 1308 Roman Way, Martinez

Major County Events of 1979

January

Board of Supervisors 1978 Chairman Robert Schroder turned over gavel to 1979 Chairman Eric Hasseltine. Supervisor Nancy Fahden was chosen vice chairman as new supervisors Sunne McPeak and Tom Powers were sworn in. Melvyrn G. Wingett took over as County Administrator.

Newly elected department heads were sworn in: Don Bouchet, Auditor-Controller; Carl Rush, Assessor; Richard LaPointe, Supt. of Schools; Alfred Lomeli, Treasurer-Tax Collector; James Olsson, Clerk-Recorder; William O'Malley, District Attorney, Richard Rainey, Sheriff-Coroner.

Carl DePietro was named Assistant Superior Court Administrator; Judge Martin Rothenberg was appointed to preside over appellate department.

Board authorized study of San Luis Drain to determine adverse effects of proposal to dump San Joaquin Valley wastewater into Delta waters.

Animal Control adopted injection method of animal euthanasia.

February

County Administrator Mel Wingett reported 428 fewer employees than in February 1978.

Board disbanded Human Resources Agency and appointed Dr. Arnold Leff as director of new Dept. of Health Services (to include medical care, public health and drug/alcohol/mental health divisions).

Planning Dept. called for EIR on proposed modernization project at Shell Oil's Martinez refinery.

Board restored county employee pay raises of July 1978, frozen under state "bailout" provision later declared invalid.

County Hospital received two-year accreditation.

March

DA's office began Bay Diversion Project to screen adults charged with misdemeanors and minor felonies to free courts for important cases.

County completed $5.2 million project providing sewer system and interim treatment plant for Bethel Island.

Board named John deFremery to head Agriculture Dept.

Board named Joseph Suta Assistant Assessor.

County gained $891,000 additional funds from state for mental health services under AB 3052.

April

James P. Kenny Conference Room dedicated in County Administration Bldg.

County allocated SB 31 funds of $587,100 to special districts.

Board established Solar Energy Task Force under direction of Planning Dept. to set up Solar Energy Advisory Committee.

Supervisors rescinded their own cost-of-living pay adjustment and established citizens committee to study supervisor job and salary.

Social Security-Retirement System Task Force recommended Social Security be retained for county employees while retirement benefit levels be lowered, reducing cost to county 48%, to employees 50%.

Began use of noise monitoring device for Buchanan Field Airport.

May

Board appointed Diane Iwasa Director of Animal Services.

Board declared fuel emergency in county, asked implementation of Gov. Brown's "odd/even" gas regulations.

Nursing home report co-authored by Supervisor McPeak called for increase in Medi-Cal payments to private nursing homes.

Four county programs honored by National Assn. of Counties: new detention facility planning process; Public Works' rotational personnel system; Head Start mental health intern program; Probation Dept.'s adult community services plan.

June

Board began hearings on allocation of $6.7 million in federal revenue sharing funds for 1979-80 fiscal year.

Board agreed to tape record its meetings for public access.

County Hospital mental health wards receive $120,000 appropriation for security fence and screens.

Civic Service Reform Task Force appointed to study change from civil service to merit system.

Board made it mandatory for employable general assistance recipients to apply for jobs or training through CETA programs or face removal from GA eligibility for six months.

Dr. Charles Pollack resigned as director of county mental health programs effective Aug. 31.

County Water Agency (water arm of board) was sued by State Dept. of Water Resources for compensation for fresh water released during drought to control salinity in county waterways.

Board supported six water policy concepts: groundwater management, conservation, opposition to water diversion facilities, quality standards, outflow studies and clarification of water needs.

July

A "sick-out" of social and health services employees prompted Board implementation of emergency strike measures, temporarily prohibiting use of paid sick leave credits without proof of illness.

Board adopted $216 million proposed budget for 1979-80 FY, showing $12 million increase over 1978-79 budget due to mandated public assistance costs, CETA programs and salary increase reserves.

County became home to increasing number of Indo-Chinese refugees whose health caused concern to public health officials charged with screening newcomers.

Public budget hearings began in wake of warning from County Administrator that AB8 funding figures could mean a cut of $2 million.

August

County began experiment with gasohol in some county vehicles; gasohol advisory committee was established.

Board approved street lighting charges within county service areas.

County adopted final budget of $226.1 million, including $10.8 million to subsidize hospital enterprise fund, and authorized funds for "Moneymax" system in Treasurer's office.

Citizens Governmental Review Committee sent final report to supervisors.

Board adopted ordinance continuing Orinda and San Ramon Valley area planning commissions to Oct. 1, 1981.

County gave conditional support to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' study on effects of deepening San Francisco-to-Stockton ship channel.

September

Supervisors froze hiring in fire protection management positions, ordered study on reorganization of county's 19 fire districts.

Asst. Public Works Director Mark Kermit addressed APWA national congress on his trip to South America as first APWA International Fellow.

CETA began innovative training program for psychiatric technicians in county to produce mental health workers for community-based projects.

Board established Correctional and Detention Facility Services Advisory Committee for new jail.

Board adopted special district budget of $34.6 million for 1979-80, including $466,000 from general fund for supplementary allocations to fire, park, library and mosquito abatement districts.

County's application for drug/alcohol abuse identification and treatment program was rated first among 35 received from state and county criminal justice agencies in U.S.; $139,000 funds were awarded.

Ida Daniel Berk was named director of Community Services Dept.

October

Supervisors conducted public hearing on campaign reform proposals of Landwatch organization that would limit campaign contributions to supervisors to $250 each four year election cycle, limit supervisors to two terms, and provide improved ballot information mailing.

Six aides were cut from the Sheriff-Coroner's office and contract authorized with county Medical Examiner for morgue assistance at savings of $90,000.

Board supported legislation sponsored by Rep. George Miller (D-Martinez) to authorize federal study of relocation of Contra Costa Canal intake to Clifton Court Forebay.

County Administrator reported to board that county can "live within" budget limits set by Proposition 4, explaining that in last five years county budgets have "approximated or been below the expenditure limits" the initiative would impose.

November

Board rejected Landwatch ordinances and directed County Counsel to prepare county's own ordinances limiting campaign contributions and providing improved voter information pamphlet. Landwatch proposal to limit supervisors to two terms was ruled against state law.

Supervisors lifted a three-year moratorium on development at Buchanan Field Airport.

Manager of Airports Don Flynn announced Buchanan Field's compliance with state noise standards.

County Supervisors Assn. of California adopted Contra Costa resolution to force more federal aid to state and counties for medical aid to Indo-Chinese refugees by refusing applications after Nov. 20. The aid was eventually passed by Congress.

County announced intention to lease "old" Los Medanos Hospital site in Pittsburg as outpatient medical services facility.

Superior Court judges elected Richard Calhoun as presiding judge for 1980.

December

Board agreed to establish technical advisory committee of fire protection staff, county staff and citizens to aid in study of fire protection services and to hire outside consultant to conduct study.

Director of Public Works Vernon Cline announced his retirement effective March 29, 1980. Cline had been with county for 32 years.

Supervisors hosted a day-long forum of industries, farmers, water districts, environmentalists and other parties on Delta water protection.

Committee to Review Supervisors' Salaries told supervisors they were not paid enough for their virtually full-time jobs. Committee proposed revamping board

salaries to bring them into line with counties of comparable population, expenditures and assessed valuation. Supervisor pay had been at $1418 per month without hike since 1977. Public hearing was scheduled for January.

Dr. Leff reported J Ward overcrowding due to difficulty in admitting county patients to Napa State Hospital. He said state had not provided necessary funds to treat chronically ill mental patients locally.

CAO Mel Wingett filed revenue sharing report stating more than $4 million in federal monies had been used to bolster county law and justice budgets. Nearly $2.5 million in revenue sharing plus $101,000 of anti-recession funds went to welfare, hospital and health services. Financial and general administration areas received $871,000.

County consolidated agendas for Board of Supervisors' meetings, combining agenda previously issued separately by Public Works, County Administrator and Clerk of Board. A mailing charge was announced for the future.

County adopted second alternative fuel experiment for 1979, using synthetic motor oil in 80 county cars. Testing was to run one year or 24,000 miles without oil change.

Further copies may be obtained from:

Public Information Office
County Administration Building
651 Pine Street
Martinez, CA 94553

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES LIBRARY
109 PHILOSOPHY HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY, CA 94720

U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES
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University of California, Berkeley
Institute of Governmental Studies
Library

Annual report / Contra Costa County County Administrator.